

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies Unit



ANNUAL REPORT
2003

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the 2003 *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies Unit Annual Report*. This report is a brief summary of Unit activities during the 2003 calendar year.

The Unit provides personal and academic support for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students and specifically aims to increase the recruitment, retention, academic performance and graduation rates of Indigenous students. The Unit also administers schemes to help Indigenous students gain access to, and receive support in, tertiary studies such as the Alternative Entry scheme and the federally funded Aboriginal Tutorial Assistance Scheme (ATAS). The Unit is also the focus for teaching and research in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies at the University of Queensland.



☐ Michael Williams
Director



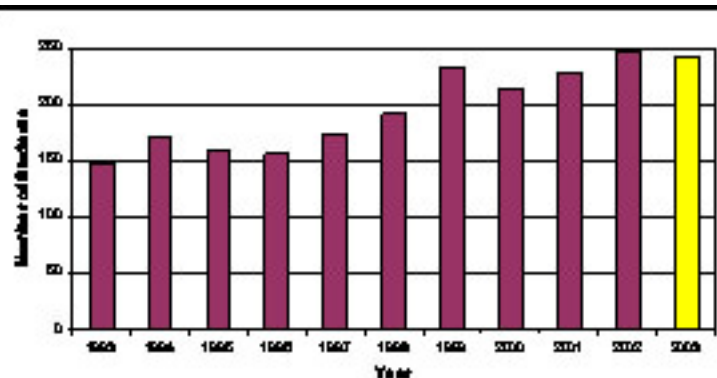
☐ Jackie Huggins
Deputy Director

2003 HIGHLIGHTS

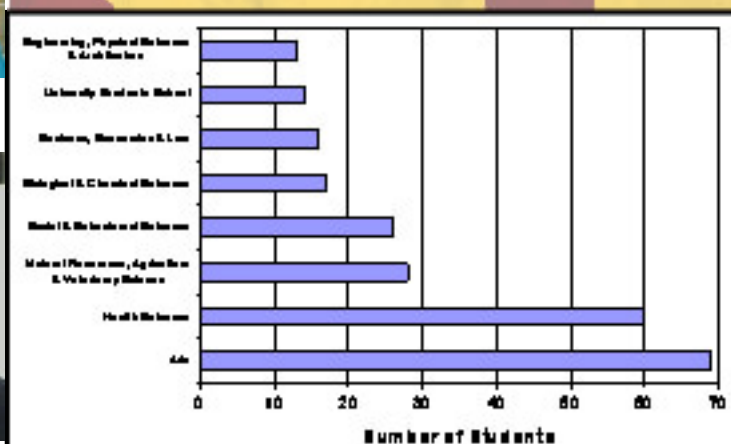
- ❖ 96 new students
- ❖ 243 students in total
- ❖ 30 postgraduates
- ❖ 46 graduations
- ❖ 1,459 students in courses
- ❖ 47 publications by Unit staff
- ❖ \$39K in research funding
- ❖ 218,276 website hits



☐ Sam Watson
Deputy Director



☐ Fig 1. Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander student enrolment, 1993-2003.



☐ Fig 2. Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander student enrolment by faculty, 2003.

2003 ENROLMENTS

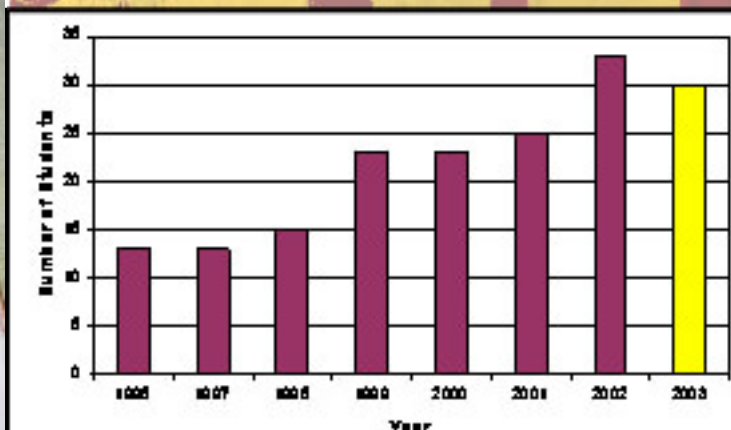
The total number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students enrolled at the University of Queensland decreased slightly by 2%, from 248 in 2002 to 243 in 2003 (Fig 1). About 58% (n=141) were women, 40% (n=96) were commencing students and over 12% (n=30) were postgraduates.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students were represented in every University faculty (Fig 2). Arts had the most students, accounting for 28% (69) closely followed by Health Sciences at 25% (60).

Of the 30 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students enrolled in postgraduate programs, 11 were undertaking Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) degrees and three Master of Philosophy degrees (Fig 3).



☐ Getano Bann
Grad Dip Music Therapy



☐ Fig 3. Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander postgraduate student enrolment, 1996-2003.

2003 GRADUATIONS

A record 46 Indigenous students graduated in 2003 (Fig 4). Two students graduated with masters degrees and five finished honours programs. A number of students graduated in fields that are not traditionally strong for Indigenous enrolments, including: veterinary science, medicine/surgery, dental science, speech pathology and physiotherapy.



Rob Markham
Bachelor of Arts



Jasmine Chin Fat
Bachelor of Education



Steve Corporal
Bachelor of Social Work/
Bachelor of Arts



Matrise Watego
Bachelor of Science



Melinda Woods
Bachelor of Applied Science
(Human Movement Studies)



Rachelle McIvor
Bachelor of Arts

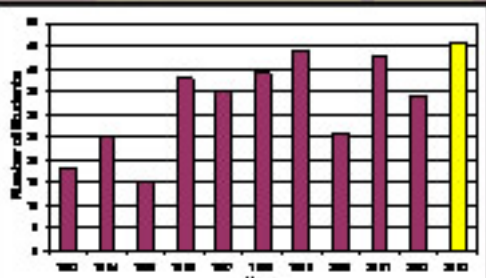


Fig 4. Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander student graduations, 1993-2003.

ABORIGINAL & TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER STUDIES

The Unit is responsible for coordinating the interdisciplinary Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies major and double major offered in the Faculty of Arts. In 2003, 1,459 students were enrolled in 27 courses. This represents a slight decline over 2002 enrolments (1,506) attributable to fewer courses being on offer in 2003 (27 compared to 30 in 2002) owing to staff absences. Unit staff directly coordinated 10 courses in the program, in addition to two postgraduate courses and an undergraduate Education course. During 2003, two students graduated with double majors in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies and nine with single majors.

2003 COURSES COORDINATED BY UNIT STAFF

ABTS1000 Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Perspectives
 ABTS2000 Torres Strait Islander Studies
 ABTS2010 Aboriginal Women
 ABTS2020 Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Approaches to Knowledge
 ABTS2040 Black Australian Literature A
 ABTS2050 Black Australian Literature B
 ABTS2080 Independent Project in A&TSIS I
 ABTS2090 Independent Project in A&TSIS II
 ABTS3000 Aboriginal Politics & Political Issues
 ABTS3020 Working with Indigenous People
 ABTS7000 Introductory Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Studies for Australian Studies Postgraduates
 ABTS7002 Transforming Conflict between Indigenous & Non-Indigenous Peoples
 EDUC2090 Indigenous Knowledge & Education

2003 UNIT PERMANENT STAFF

<i>Director</i>	Michael Williams
<i>Deputy Director (Part-Time)</i>	Jackie Huggins
<i>Deputy Director (Part-Time)</i>	Sam Watson
<i>Reader</i>	Associate Professor Ian Lilley
<i>Lecturer</i>	Dr Elizabeth Mackinlay
<i>Lecturer</i>	Dr Polly Walker
<i>Associate Lecturer</i>	Norm Sheehan
<i>Senior Unit Researcher</i>	Sean Ulm
<i>Senior Administrative Officer</i>	Mary Dunn
<i>Administrative Assistant - Student Support</i>	Georgina Whap
<i>Secretary</i>	Sue Randell
<i>ATAS Coordinator</i>	Lesla Norman
<i>Student Support Secretary</i>	Mary Ware
<i>Honorary Visiting Fellow</i>	Dr Anna Shnukal
<i>Honorary Research Adviser</i>	Dr Noelene Cole

2003 STAFF PROFESSIONAL LEADERSHIP

Michael Williams

- Council Member, AIATSIS
- Council Member, University of the Sunshine Coast
- Member, Queensland Museum A&TSI Consultative Committee

Jackie Huggins

- Co-Chair, Reconciliation Australia
- Director, Telstra Foundation
- Director, Chain Reaction Foundation
- Member, ATSIC Review Panel
- Director, Australian Centre for Indigenous History, ANU
- Council Member, AIATSIS
- Editor, *The Australian Journal of Indigenous Education*
- Member, Indigenous Advisory Board, Queensland Centre for Family Violence Research
- Editorial Board, *Life Writing*
- Co-Chair, Independent Inquiry into Release Policy and Practice in the Queensland Prison System
- Indigenous Advisory Board, State Library of Queensland

Ian Lilley

- Executive Member, Indo-Pacific Prehistory Association
- Secretary, Australian Archaeological Association Inc.
- Editor, *World Archaeological Bulletin*
- Secretary, World Archaeological Congress

Elizabeth Mackinlay

- Treasurer, Musicological Society of Australia
- Chairman, Queensland Chapter, Musicological Society of Australia
- Council Member, Queensland Chapter, Australian Society for Music Education
- Editor, *Queensland Journal of Music Education*
- Editor, *The Australian Journal of Indigenous Education*

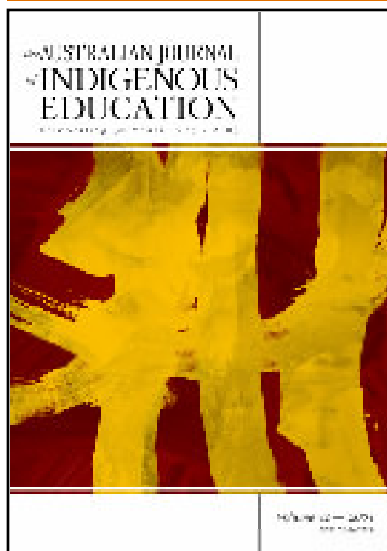
Norm Sheehan

- Member, Indigenous Dialogues, SEED Open University
- Member, Riawunna Aboriginal Education & Employment Strategies Consultative Group, University of Tasmania
- Member, Purga Aboriginal Elders & Descendants Development Committee
- Member, Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Curriculum Advisory Board, Education Queensland
- Member, Nunukule Yuggera Cultural Development Project Committee

Sean Ulm

- President, Australian Archaeological Association Inc.
- Membership Secretary, Australian Association of Consulting Archaeologists Inc.
- Junior Representative, World Archaeological Congress
- Member, Joint Standing Committee on Archaeology T&L
- Webmaster, www.aacai.com.au

AUSTRALIAN JOURNAL OF INDIGENOUS EDUCATION



At the beginning of 2003 *The Australian Journal of Indigenous Education* (formerly *The Aboriginal Child at School*) celebrated its 30th year of publication. To mark the event the journal has been upgraded to a full peer reviewed format with improved production quality. Two volumes of the journal were published during 2003, including a special bumper 30th anniversary edition. Check out the website at: www.atsis.uq.edu.au/ajie/

HIGHLIGHTS & MILESTONES

- National Sorry Day/Week Activities 25-30 May 2003
- UQ Union/Goorie Berrimpa Sorry Dinner 30 May 2003
- Prayer for Reconciliation 17 September 2003
- Norm Sheehan was awarded a Short PhD Fellowship by the University of Queensland to complete his PhD entitled *Indigenous Knowledge and Higher Education: Instigating Relational Education in a Neocolonial Context*.
- Elizabeth Mackinlay received a second PhD for her thesis entitled *Disturbances and Dislocations: Understanding Teaching and Learning Experiences in Indigenous Australian Women's Music and Dance*.
- Sam Watson was awarded a grant from Arts Queensland to complete his new novel.

ATAS

The Aboriginal Tutorial Assistance Scheme (ATAS) is a federally funded program that offers academic assistance to Indigenous Australian students. During 2003, 72 students were registered for assistance through the ATAS program coordinated by the University of Queensland. A total of 46 casual tutors was employed, including many senior Indigenous students, to support students at St Lucia, Herston, Ipswich, Gatton, Townsville, Cairns and Thursday Island.

2003 GUEST LECTURERS

Leila Abukar	Bethelia Stewart
Dorothy Bamaga	Daniel Tapau
Robert Canning	Denis Walker
Delilah Fa'aosa	Samuel Wagan Watson
Esra Stephen Mam	Emma Webb
Noritta Morseu-Diop	

2003 RESEARCH GRANTS

Year/s	Grantee	Project Title	Source	Amount
2003	Lilley	Archaeological Heritage in Eastern Torres Strait	University of Queensland	\$8.5K
2003	Unit	University of Queensland Research Performance	University of Queensland	\$30.5K

2003 UNIT PUBLICATIONS



www.atsis.uq.edu.au

UNIT WEBSITE

In 2003 the Unit's website continued to be a primary vehicle for promoting the Unit's activities and providing information to staff, students and the general public, with a total of 218,276 hits (Fig 5).

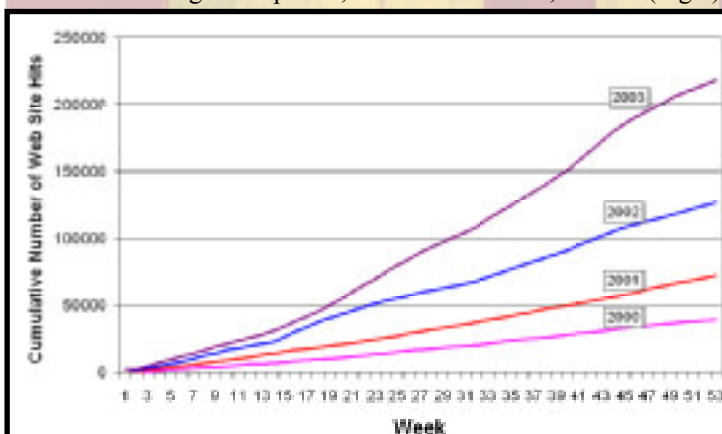


Fig 5. Unit website usage statistics, 2000-2003.

BIRRA NEWS LAUNCHED



Birra News is a web-based newsletter designed for Indigenous Australian students at the University of Queensland. It has been produced every fortnight since 5 May 2003. *Birra News* focusses on services, scholarships, prizes, grants, cadetships, jobs and conferences that support and enhance the learning experiences and outcomes of Indigenous students at UQ and encourages networking between Indigenous students, staff, graduates, the broader UQ community, government departments and the wider community.

PRAYER FOR RECONCILIATION

The annual Prayer for Reconciliation was held on 17 September at the natural amphitheatre at the University of Queensland. The event was well attended and had performances by the Marnoch Family Singers and 'Aibai Sagulau Buai' Torres Strait Islander dancers from Badu. Many faith groups were represented at the event together with members of the University and Indigenous community. Highlights included speeches by Cathy Duncan and Dick Estens, Aboriginal Employment Strategy Ltd, who talked of the practical outcomes of reconciliation through helping Indigenous people in Moree gain meaningful employment.



The candle-lighting ceremony

2003 PUBLICATIONS BY UNIT STAFF

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- MACKINLAY, E. and J. Bradley 2003 Of mermaids and spirit men: Complexities in the categorisation of two Aboriginal dance performances at Borroloola, NT. *The Asia Pacific Journal of Anthropology* 4(1/2):2-24.
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Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies Unit
6th Floor Gordon Greenwood Building
The University of Queensland
Brisbane QLD 4072
Ph. (07) 3365 6699

ARTWORK: Macsen Ja-wukanyi Chalmers Fax. (07) 3365 6855
EDITOR: Sean Ulm Email: atsis@uq.edu.au
ISSN 1445-4696 Web: www.atsis.uq.edu.au